

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUGUST 19, 2014

Mayor Kristen Brown called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

I. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Opening Prayer was given by Pastor Dan Wallace with First Christian Church.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Brown.
- C. Roll Call was taken. Dascal Bunch, Ryan Brand, Frank Jerome, Frank Miller, Tim Shuffett, Kenneth Whipker and James Lienhoop were present.
- D. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to approve the minutes from the City Council meeting on August 5, 2014 as presented. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of seven (7) in favor and zero (0) opposed.

II. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action

None.

III. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 14, 2014, A SLUM AND BLIGHT DECLARATORY RESOLUTION IDENTIFYING A SPECIFIC PROPERTY WITH CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZING ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS SAID CONDITIONS IN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS." Carl Malysz, Community Development Director, and Trena Carter, Manager – Municipal Programs with Administrative Resources administration (ARa), presented this resolution. Carl explained ARa is assisting the city in preparing the application to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for redevelopment of the former Golden Foundry site. Carl stated OCRA has a community development grant, which would allow the city to get the site cleared. He further explained this resolution acknowledges the area as a slum and blighting influence that needs to be addressed. Trena explained environmental consultants have designed a work plan, with assistance through the Indiana Finance Authority to perform those studies. The plan is for demolition and clearance, as well as soil testing and characterization of the rubble for possible fill on the site. Trena further stated there will need to be an environmental restrictive covenant with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Councilor Whipker asked if the owner of the property is current on all taxes. Carl stated his understanding of the purchase agreement is that all liens and debt will be paid off prior to the closing/transfer of the property. Councilor Miller questioned if the city could recoup the money the city is using to obtain the grant. Trena explained part of the process of this grant is proving the current owner will not be unduly enriched with the cleanup. Discussion followed. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the resolution as presented. Councilor Bunch seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- B. Reading of a Resolution entitled "RESOLUTION NO. 15, 2014, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

COLUMBUS, INDIANA AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE DISASTER RECOVERY APPLICATION TO THE INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS AND ADDRESSING RELATED MATTERS.” Carl Malysz and Trena Carter presented this resolution by explaining OCRA requires a ten percent (10%) local match from the applicant. Carl specified the \$17,530.00 funding will come from the city’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement program. Trena explained this resolution allows the Mayor to be authorized to sign the application with the local match in place. Discussion followed. Councilor Shuffett made a motion to pass the resolution as presented. Councilor Brand seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Other Business

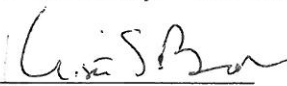
A. Discussion Items:

- 1.) State Street Corridor Revitalization, Phase 1, Update. Jeff Bergman, Planning Director, and Beth Fizel, City Engineer, presented a power point presentation showing designs of the State Street master plan. Jeff discussed the opportunity to partner with Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for implementation of some of the aspects of the State Street Corridor Plan. He stated INDOT’s plan is to overlay the area from Second and Third Street bridges to Mapleton Street and they plan to replace all of the curb ramps. Jeff explained this is an opportunity to maximize the time and resources from INDOT and to realize cost savings for the city. The State Street plan also calls for sidewalks, intersection improvements and an eight (8) foot multiuse people trail on the north side of State Street. Councilor Jerome asked about the left turn lane being fourteen (14) feet and other lanes being twelve (12) feet. Beth Fizel explained that was an INDOT standard. Councilor Shuffett questioned the State Street Corridor Plan referring to a committee being established. Jeff said yes, that was an option in the plan. Councilor Brand inquired if there was an option other than an eight (8) foot trail in the plan. Jeff said there were a number of options to improve walkability. Councilor Miller asked about the vision and enhancement for State Street, stating that everything is being rushed and good accomplishments don’t happen quickly. Mayor stated the time sensitive piece is the engineering work, sidewalks, and people trail. Councilor Miller suggests discussing the total vision and package, not just short term items. Councilor Brand recommended forming the committee and exploring the opportunity to discuss the scope of the project with INDOT. Harry McGinity, Public Information Officer with INDOT stated any changes would need to happen soon and he has heard no conversations regarding a date change with the project. Councilor Brand said he’s spoken with INDOT officials regarding review of the project, condition of the road, and option for possible delay. Mr. McGinity said INDOT’s concern is the time line and that no one wants to put in curb ramps if they were to be torn out. Much discussion followed. Beth discussed price options and variables provided from United Consultant Engineers, Inc. Mayor Brown explained the Redevelopment Commission approved a topographical survey, with a not to exceed amount of \$70,200.00. Councilor Jerome stated conversations with INDOT in Indianapolis need to occur to see what’s possible for this project. Discussion followed. Laurence Brown, Metropolitan Planning Organization, spoke very favorably about the project, but has concerns about an eight (8) foot path. He would like to make sure the ten (10) foot option stays available in future planning. Priscilla Scaff, member of the State Street Association, is happy to hear INDOT is willing to discuss the project and she urges the Council to get the plans completed in a timely manner so it will not stop the progress. Julie Aton, State Street Area Association, stated the Lakota

Group website has documentation from prior open houses regarding the State Street project. She also referenced the City of Bloomington website which discussed economic development due to trail expansions. Morris Percifield of East Columbus said he really appreciates the work that has gone into this project and hopes this project will go forward.

- 2.) Revisions to the Non-Recurring Rates & Fees charged by the Water and Wastewater Utilities – Keith Reeves, Director, along with Dale Langferman, Manager of Business and Finance, both with Columbus City Utilities presented this discussion item for a non-rate related fee change. The fees include new customer fees, stop and start service, returned payment, after-hours non-emergency, etc. Keith stated the proposed fees were determined by comparing an estimated actual cost for the functions, as well as comparing the fees to other communities. The recommended fees were approved by the Columbus City Utilities Board. Councilor Shuffett, liaison to the Utility Board, stated the Board was very supportive of the suggested fees. He explained there was much discussion prior to coming up with the amounts. Mayor stated the increases are very large to be done at one time. Barry Turner, Utilities Board Member, stated the rates have not been raised in 20 years and explained the process for the suggested fee changes. Much discussion followed. It was suggested to revisit the amounts on three (3) of the fees: returned payment, non-payment disconnect, and winter disconnect.

- B. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports – Councilor Lienhoop stated he and Councilor Miller are liaisons to the Columbus Economic Development Board and there is an economic development trip planned to China/Japan. The Columbus Economic Board indicated it is beneficial to have an elected official to travel with the Board and since the Mayor has declined the trip, Councilor Lienhoop inquired if it would be agreeable for a Council Member to participate in the trip. Mayor stated the trip is expensive and she felt it more important and cost effective, to spend time with executives that are actually here in Columbus. She further suggested the trip be funded by private donations. Jason Hester, Executive Director, Columbus Economic Development Board, spoke on the many benefits of the trip and stated one way to look at the investment would be to take the top five (5) local Japanese companies who employ over 4000 employees, expend more than \$100 million in payroll, and generates approximately \$250,000 - \$300,000 in CEDIT money for the city. It was discussed there is currently money budgeted for travel. Councilor Lienhoop said the deadline to sign up for the trip is approaching quickly and asked if the Mayor would object to using unspent funds in the Council budget to send an elected official from the city. Mayor stated the money from Council's budget could be used if it was approved by Clerk Treasurer. Luann Welmer, Clerk Treasurer, will double check with the State Board of Accounts, but does not foresee an issue.
- C. The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.**
- D. Councilor Shuffett made a motion for adjournment. Councilor Whipker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:51 P.M.


Presiding Officer

Attest:

Clerk Treasurer of City of Columbus